

## **THE CHARTER FOR COMPASSION**

*“The principle of compassion lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.*

*It is also necessary in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.*

*We therefore call upon all men and women to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion ~ to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate ~ to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures ~ to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity ~ to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings—even those regarded as enemies.*

*We urgently need to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.”*



**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN ANTONIO:**

**SECTION 1.** The City recognizes that its constituents are modeling actions and attitudes that reflect the Golden Rule as expressed in the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities' "Charter for Compassion".

**SECTION 2.** The City encourages San Antonio's institutions of learning to have all ages explore and teach compassion, based on the understanding that extensive research and resources validate the full spectrum of the benefits of compassion, from being good for the bottom line of business to being a part of the human DNA.

**SECTION 3.** The City supports groups and initiatives that will make San Antonio a more compassionate City, and through its Faith Based Initiative the City will work with the community and neighborhoods to foster compassion in a reasoned and coordinated manner.

**SECTION 4.** The City accepts the support of other public, private, community and faith-based organizations that wish to improve the quality of life for all residents of San Antonio and to generate compassionate action through local initiatives, policies and programs.

**SECTION 5.** The City recognizes, records and celebrates acts of compassion among members of the San Antonio Community.

**SECTION 6.** The City affirms the Charter for Compassion and authorizes the City's registration with the International Campaign for Compassionate Cities through Compassion Action Network International.

**SECTION 7.** This Resolution is effective immediately upon the receipt of eight affirmative votes; otherwise, it is effective ten days after passage.

**PASSED AND APPROVED this 22nd day of June 2017 by City Council.**

**The Universality of the Golden Rule in the World Religions**

Bahá'í

***And if thine eyes be turned towards justice, choose thou for thy neighbour that which thou choosest for thyself.*** Epistle to the Son of the Wolf

Buddhism

***Hurt not others in ways that you yourself would find hurtful.***

Udana-Varga 5:18

Christianity

***In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.*** Matthew 7:12

Confucianism

***Do not do to others what you do not want them to do to you.***

Analects 15:23

Hinduism

***This is the sum of duty: do not do to others what would cause pain if done to you.*** Mahabharata 5:1517

Islam

***None of you [truly] believes until he wishes for his brother what he wishes for himself.*** Number 13 of Imam "Al-Nawawi's Forty Hadiths.

Judaism

***What is hateful to you, do not to your fellow man. This is the law: all the rest is commentary.*** Talmud, Shabbat 31a

Native American Spirituality

***Do not wrong or hate your neighbor. For it is not he who you wrong, but yourself.*** Pima proverb

Sikhism

***Don't create enmity with anyone as God is within everyone.***

Guru Arjan Devji 259

Yoruba

***One going to take a pointed stick to pinch a baby bird should first try it on himself to feel how it hurts.***

Nigerian proverb

Aviles, Spain  
Parliament of Australia  
Bali, Indonesia  
Bandung, Indonesia  
Banyuwangi, Indonesia  
Basalt, CO, USA  
Belfast, UK  
Berkeley Lake, GA, USA  
Bojoonegro, Indonesia  
Country of Botswana  
Canberra, Australia  
Cape Town, South Africa  
Chippewa Falls, WI, USA  
Cincinnati, OH, USA  
Clarkston, GA, USA  
City of Cornwall, UK

### **Dallas, TX, USA**

Danbury, CT, USA  
Dayton, OH, USA  
Decatur, GA, USA  
Del Ray, CA, USA  
Republic of Djibouti  
Eskilstuna, Sweden  
Fayetteville, AR, USA

### **Fort Worth, TX, USA**

Fremont, CA  
Garut, Indonesia  
Gaziantep, Turkey  
Groningen, Netherlands  
Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon, Mex.  
Hendersonville, NC, USA

### **Houston, TX, USA**

Huntington Beach, CA, USA  
Huntsville, AL, USA  
Karachi, Pakistan  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Westland, MI, USA

Leiden, Netherlands  
LoDo Neighborhood, Denver, CO, USA  
London, ON, Canada  
Louisville, KY, USA  
Lyndon, KY, USA  
Milford, CT, USA  
Millbrae, CA, USA  
Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
Nanaimo, BC, Canada  
Neenah, WI, USA  
Orlando, FL, USA  
Overland Park Neighborhood, CO, USA  
Parksville, BC, Canada  
PAX Nation  
Pine Bluff, AR, USA  
Portland, ME, USA  
Powell River, BC, Canada  
Purwakarta, Indonesia

### **Richardson, TX, USA**

Rotterdam, Netherlands  
Salt Lake City, UT, USA  
San Nicolas, Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
San Pedro, Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
Santa Catarina, Nuevo Leon, Mexico

Santa Maria, CA, USA

Santa Monica, CA, USA  
Santiago, Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
Seattle, WA, USA  
Spokane, WA, USA  
St. Augustine, FL, USA  
State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico  
Sragen, Indonesia  
Syracuse/Onondaga County, NY, USA  
Greater Toledo and Northwest Ohio, USA  
Tucson, AZ, USA  
Tulsa, OK, USA  
Winston-Salem, NC, USA

### **San Antonio, TX, USA**

### **Vision for San Antonio**

*To become an active part of the global vision and network of networks for the Charter of Compassion.*

### **Vision for Charter for Compassion International**

A world where everyone is committed to living by the principle of compassion and the ethic of reciprocity – to treat others the way we wish to be treated ourselves.

### **Mission**

The Charter for Compassion International supports the emergence of a global movement that brings the Charter for Compassion to life. To do so, it is a network of networks, connecting organizers and leaders from around the world, providing educational resources, organizing tools, and avenues for communication; sharing lessons, stories, and inspiration; providing the umbrella of the Charter for Compassion for conferences, events, collaborations, conversations and initiatives to create compassionate communities and institutions.

### **History**

In February 2008 the TED prize was awarded to Karen Armstrong for her wish to create, launch, and propagate a global compassion movement based on the Golden Rule. A meeting was convened in Geneva, Switzerland later that year, called by Ms. Armstrong and TED, to work with a group of significant global leaders to hone the language collected from thousands of contributors into what became the "Charter for Compassion," launched on November 12, 2009.

### **For More Details, Resources and Contacts:**

[www.saCompassion.net](http://www.saCompassion.net)  
[www.CharterForCompassion.org](http://www.CharterForCompassion.org)

The Charter's Compassionate Communities and Cities program is not a certificate program that offers a seal of approval, nor does it subscribe to a single definition of a Compassionate Community. Instead, the Charter invites communities of all sizes to bring ***compassion as a lens to life in practical, specific ways through compassion-driven actions*** — in neighbourhoods, businesses, schools and colleges, healthcare, the arts, local government, peace groups, environmental advocacy groups, and faith congregations.

Any individual, group, or organization that recognizes the need for greater compassion in a community is encouraged to begin the process for creating a Compassionate Community. While the Charter does not prescribe any one path, it does recommend that the process be designed and carried out by a diverse and inclusive coalition of people so that all voices within the community are heard, and the significant issues are addressed.

For the past five years, Compassionate San Antonio has been an intentional effort within the interfaith community and the San Antonio Peace Center. Along with other current and on-going efforts, like SA 2020 and the San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative, ***Compassion can become a unitive lens to our community life in practical, specific ways through compassion-driven actions.***

Compassionate Cities generally go through a four phase process:

Phase 1: Discover and Assess    Phase 3: Build and Launch  
Phase 2: Focus and Commit    Phase 4: Evaluate and Sustain

**With past and current efforts of the organizations mentioned above and others, San Antonio is at the beginning of Phase 3 following the signing of the Compassionate San Antonio Resolution by City Council on June 22, 2017. The San Antonio Faith-Based Initiative has been charged in carrying this forward on behalf of the City.**

For more details on the 4 Phases, please see:

<https://www.charterforcompassion.org/phase-1-discover-and-assess>  
<https://www.charterforcompassion.org/phase-2-focus-and-commit>  
<https://www.charterforcompassion.org/phase-3-build-and-launch>  
<https://www.charterforcompassion.org/phase-4-evaluate-and-sustain>

**The Charter for Compassion is active in communities, both large and small, in near to 50 countries in the world. Here is a list of these countries:**

Armenia	Malaysia
Australia	Mali
Bangladesh	Mexico
Botswana	Nepal
Brazil	Netherlands
Canada	Nigeria
Croatia	Norway
Republic of Djibouti	Pakistan
Ethiopia	Portugal
Finland	Romania
France	Serbia
Germany	Singapore
Ghana	South Africa
India	Somalia
Indonesia	Spain
Iraq	Sweden
Italy	Taiwan
Jamaica	Tanzania
Kenya	Thailand
Kosovo	Turkey
Lebanon	United Arab Emirates
Liberia	United Kingdom
Malawi	United States of America

**In addition, over 80 cities globally have affirmed the Charter for Compassion through city, community councils or other government entities. Affirming the Charter means that a community identifies issues on which to work, and commits to a multi-year action plan.**

Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA	Khairo Dero Village, Pakistan
Apeldorn, Netherlands	Lacey, WA, USA
Apodaca, Nuevo Leon, Mexico	Lambeth, United Kingdom
Appleton, WI, USA	Lake County, CA, USA
Atlanta, GA, USA	Lake Forest Park, WA, USA
<b>Austin, TX, USA</b>	Las Vegas, NV, USA